

KOBE, Japan (AFP) — A new Kobe mother told *Sunday* how her life was saved after giving birth during the major earthquake. Mariko gave birth to her second child during Tuesday's quake, and as she lay in hospital, she told her mother: "I'm home just four days after the huge quake which left more than 5,200 dead or missing." Mariko gave birth 10 hours earlier, while the city burned. The Nagata district of Kobe was the worst hit, and the woman who saved the birth, *Yoko*, said the lives of her family as they left their home were spared by chance. Other earthquake survivors told how they had been born during Tuesday's quake, and while doctors tried to save them, they died. More than 10,000 people were hospitalized for injuries. During the day, the city had only a few hours of electricity, which was cut off at a Kobe hospital. A second son was born without electricity, waiting 12 hours after his brother. Supposedly supported by her husband, *Yoshinori*, *Yoko* had given birth to her first child, a girl, through the window of her room. During the day, she had only a few hours of electricity, which was cut off at a Kobe hospital. A second son was born without electricity, waiting 12 hours after his brother. Supposedly supported by her husband, *Yoshinori*, *Yoko* had given birth to her first child, a girl, through the window of her room.

95,000 cases of corruption uncovered in China

PEKING (AP) — China's top anti-corruption body has arrested 95,000 officials since last year, including 10 ministers and 10 provincial governors. A total of 10,000 arrests have been made, and 10,000 cases of corruption have been solved. The ministry has also recovered 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in lost funds. The ministry has also recovered 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in lost funds.

Swiss to crack down on unwanted foreigners

BERNE (AP) — Switzerland will have power to ban foreign workers from the country next year, the Swiss government said Friday. The measure, which would affect about 100,000 foreign workers, has been proposed by the government to combat illegal immigration. The proposal would allow the government to ban foreign workers from the country if they are causing social problems or threatening national security.

Search for missing skiers called off

ANKARA (R) — A joint U.S.-Turkish military search for a missing U.S. airman and his young son, presumed lost on a ski trip was called off, on Sunday. Officials said the pair had probably died on the mountains.

N. Korea urges nuclear states to disarm

TOKYO (R) — North Korea, suspected by the West of developing its own nuclear weapons, on Sunday urged states with nuclear weapons to take steps to abandon them. "The nuclear-weapons states must... take practical steps for nuclear disarmament, joining in the trend of the time towards detente, disarmament and peace," said the official North Korean daily *Rodong Sinmun*.

Clinton trails Dole in poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton trails a top Republican in a presidential poll released Sunday that also shows 41 per cent of Americans believe the president has difficulty telling the truth. If the presidential election were held now, Senator majority leader Bob Dole would win with 43 per cent of the vote, while Mr. Clinton would take 41 per cent, according to a survey of 1,000 people done for NBC Television and the Wall Street Journal.

Canadian province to study decriminalising drugs

VANCOUVER (R) — Canadian Province of British Columbia said Friday it would look into decriminalizing certain drugs, including marijuana, to combat drug deaths. The province's attorney general, *Vince Campbell*, said he was not pressuring the government to do so, but that some hard drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, were causing a public health crisis. His ideas were based on a report by a commission of experts on reducing drug use. "I am recommending the decriminalization of soft and 'hard' drugs, suggesting before seriously considering a medical model."

Yemeni parliament speaker visits Riyadh

SANA (AP) — Yemen's parliament speaker flew to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital, Sunday for talks on a border dispute that has triggered armed clashes in recent weeks. The visit by Sheikh Abdallah Al Ahmar, a powerful pro-Saudi chief of the dominated Hashed tribal confederation, is his second to Saudi Arabia since December. In a departure statement, Sheikh Ahmar said the trip was "part of continuous consultations to strengthen the brotherly relations between the two countries to serve the interests of the two nations." He said he will prepare for a summit meeting between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saudi King Fahd. Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the largest countries on the peninsula, have been locked in a border dispute since the 1930s, when they fought a brief war. But tension heightened in the past two months after the Sanaa government accused Saudi Arabia of building roads and military posts in what Yemen claims is its territory. Sanaa also said that Saudi patrols have attacked Yemeni positions, inflicting 10 casualties, earlier this month.

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Suicide blasts kill 18 in Israel

Islamic Jihad claims responsibility; calls go up for suspension of self-rule talks; territories sealed off

BEIT LID JUNCTION (R)
A suicide bombing claimed by the militant Islamic Jihad group killed at least 18 people, mostly Israeli soldiers, on Sunday near a bus station where troops wait for transport into the occupied West Bank.

Islamic Jihad, in a statement faxed to an international news agency, said two of its suicide bombers — both from Gaza — carried out the attack in central Israel, which rocked further the fragile Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal.

President Ezer Weizman, whose post is largely ceremonial, told Israel Television: "I believe we should now suspend the talks — not stop them, but suspend them — and tell him (PLO chief Yasser Arafat): 'make a bigger effort' to stop guerrilla attacks."

An aerial view of the site at the Beit Lid junction on Sunday where two bombs exploded. A hole in the ground on the bottom right side shows where one of the bombs exploded (AFP photo)

The claim that the guerrillas came from Gaza brought more public pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to rethink the peace process with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is responsible for security in Gaza.

"The snack bar was blown apart by the first explosion. Soldiers at the hitch-hiking station then ran towards it to help the wounded. Shortly after that there was another explosion," said witness Kobi Marciano.

Police chief Assaf Hefetz said the body of one guerrilla

had been recovered. Israeli army radio reported investigators were checking whether a second bomber was involved.

"The Islamic Jihad forces announce their responsibility for the two suicide attacks at the Beit Lid intersection," the group said in its statement.

"The hero Anwar Mohamad Sakr, 25, from Sajaya (in Gaza City) made a suicide attack on a Zionist hitch-hiking station near a restaurant.

"The other hero, Salah Abdul Hamid Shaker Mohammad, 27, from Rafah (in southern Gaza), carried out the same attack on a bus station a few metres from the first hitch-hiking station," it said.

"Our combatants exploded a first bomb. Fifteen minutes later, as the Zionists gathered to help their wounded, one of the unit's heroes blew himself up with another bomb," said the statement.

It described the bombings as an "heroic and courageous operation" which killed or wounded "dozens of Zionists."

It added: "The fire will continue burning — we will burn down the Zionists until the last bastard has left our holy motherland."

Islamic Jihad said it carried out the bombings to avenge the killing last month of three Palestinian policemen in a clash with Israeli soldiers at the Erez crossing point between Israel and Gaza.

(Continued on page 7)

tween Israel and Gaza.

The attack, it said, was part of its "general revenge" for the death in a car bomb blast in Gaza last November of Islamic Jihad activist Hani Abed. Palestinian officials have blamed Israel for his death.

As workers picked bodies parts off the road and trees for burial, bloodied survivors at the scene and opposition politicians angrily called on the Rabin government to halt peace talks with Palestinians.

At least 62 people were wounded in the blast, 13 of them seriously.

Islamic Jihad, which condemns the 1993 PLO-Israel accord as a sell-out, has claimed responsibility for previous attacks on Israeli targets, including a suicide bombing in Gaza last November in which three Israeli soldiers died.

Mr. Rabin broke off a crucial cabinet meeting discussing the boom in Jewish settlement building around Jerusalem to dash by helicopter to Netanya, a Mediterranean resort town close to the blast site.

The protesters chanting "Rabin the traitor" and "Death to Arabs" demonstrated against his handling of security.

"I was for the peace process, but not if there is going to be attacks like this every few days," said Yehezkel Nissim, who said he missed

Somali kidnappers free aid worker

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali hostage-takers have freed French aid worker Rudy Marcq, held captive for 37 days. U.N. and European Union (EU) officials said here Sunday, in a move seen as encouraging for aid agencies planning to stay after U.N. troops pull out in March.

Mr. Marcq, 24, an employee of the French aid agency International Action Against Famine (AICF), was freed late Saturday and spent the night in the new U.N. headquarters at Mogadishu airport before being flown to Nairobi early Sunday on a World Food Programme flight.

AICF officials insisted that no ransom was paid for the release of the aid agency hostage who was in good health and had been well treated, building up a strong rapport with his captors.

"My conditions in detention were good," Mr. Marcq said on arrival in Nairobi. "I was well treated, properly fed with noodles and fish. They (the kidnappers) got me drinking water every day."

"I changed house four times and was kept locked up in a room each time. I had a mattress and towards the end I even had a bed: Unbeatable luxury."

In Mogadishu, the kidnappers were also allowed to go free and two of them, Hassan Warsame and Slad Khalif Qui Qui, backed Marcq's reports telling AFP here that their hostage was "a man of

strong moral discipline... A brave young man who could adjust himself to any sort of life."

Observers in Mogadishu fear a renewal of fighting between groups lead by Mohammad Ali Aideed and his rival Ali Madhi Mohammad when U.N. troops complete their March withdrawal, but said Sunday the Frenchman's release could be a sign that faction fighter were coming under greater control.

U.N. and aid agency officials, delighted by the release, claimed it had happened as a direct result of their announcement last week that they were suspending all but emergency operations in Mogadishu until Mr. Marcq was freed.

"It worked. The kidnappers were put under heavy pressure by the Somalis and they had to give in," said a delighted Fernando Zanuso, the Italian director of the World Food Programme in Somalia.

Jean-Luc Bodin, head of AICF operations, agreed: "The pressure worked. The kidnappers gave in. It's great for the future of Somalia," he said.

Warlord Aideed, who controls much of southern Mogadishu, also applied pressure for Mr. Marcq's release but Mr. Zanuso said he did not know how much success this had had.

More pressure was applied by clan leaders.



SUICIDE BLASTS: Plastic covered bodies lie on the ground where police experts examine the scene of a bombing in the Beit Lid junction Sunday where two bombs exploded (see page one) (AFP photo)

European, N. African ministers announce security accord

TUNIS (R) — Security

ministers from four European countries and two North African states have pledged to intensify efforts to fight Muslim fundamentalist violence.

Even as they deliberated, Muslim militants shot dead the president of Algeria's football federation as he left his Algiers home, the official APS news agency reported.

France's Interior Minister

Charles Pasqua, Italy's Antonio Brancaccio, Portugal's

Manuel Diaz Loureiro, Spain's Secretary of State for the Interior Margarita Robles, Algerian Interior Minister

Abdul Rahman Meziane Cheif, and Tunisia's Abdulla Kallel attended the meeting.

The ministers... solemnly and firmly condemned terrorism, fundamentalism and every form of extremism and fanaticism and appeal for an end of violence because only civil peace will allow economic and social development," a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

The ministers said they have "decided to increase the exchange of information and their cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels, to fight the various forms of crimes... increasingly linked to terrorism and fundamentalism," it said.

"There is a necessity for us to have a comprehensive approach to these problems," Mr. Pasqua said.

"The results are extremely positive, because it is the first time four European ministers and two Maghreb states have agreed to together condemn terrorism, fundamentalism and fanaticism," Mr. Chérif told APS news agency reported.

In Algeria, violence pitting army-backed authorities against Muslim fundamentalists has raged for three years, killing up to 30,000 people since the authorities canceled an election in 1992 that fundamentalists had been poised to win.

On Saturday, the APS news agency said football federation chief Rachid Harraige, 58, married with two children, died shortly after being shot. Algiers Radio said he had been building up the sports' movement as "a rampart against terrorism."

In a separate dispatch APS said security forces had killed 20 Muslim guerrillas in a week-long sweep.

Western European countries worry that violence in North Africa could spread to the surprise of diplomats.

France, which fears a fundamentalist threat within its Muslim community of about 4.5 million people, and Spain last year said they would step

up security controls and border checks to counter Muslim guerrillas.

France and Algeria were both involved in the hijack of a French airliner by the Islamic Armed Group (IAG), the most violent of Algeria's rebel groups. French commandos stormed the aircraft in Marseille, killing the four hijackers and freeing the passengers.

Tunisia crushed its fundamentalist movement in 1991, and has since urged European countries, especially France and Britain, to extradite their exiled fundamentalist activists.

Morocco is reported to have 30 active fundamentalist groups. This month the trial started in the city of Fez of 18 alleged fundamentalists, six of them carrying French passports, who are accused of carrying out attacks, including one in which two Spanish tourists were killed.

Morocco, invited to the Tunis meeting, dubbed "A+3," did not take part, to the surprise of diplomats.

In Rabat, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the Moroccan news agency MAP said only Morocco was not participating. He did not elaborate.

The talks went ahead as "A+2."

Kurds say mediation failing

ANKARA (Agencies) —

Peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurdish groups who have shelled each other in recent days are faltering over control of a key city, Iraqi Kurdish sources said on Sunday.

"Negotiations are not going well, in fact there is tension," Shazad Saib, the Ankara representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said.

Minor clashes between the PUK and the rival Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) broke out on Friday around the northern Iraqi towns of Said Sadiq and Shanae, near the Iranian border, and Gomaspan, further west, Mr. Saib said.

"There were artillery exchanges near Gomaspan but the fighting wasn't very important," he said. Mr. Saib could give no casualty figures.

He said a 60-member committee, made up of PUK and KDP delegates was trying to persuade the factions' leaders to declare a ceasefire.

Mr. Saib said the PUK was prepared to meet a KDP demand that it withdraw from Erbil but would not hand the city over to its rival.

"We are willing to pull out of Erbil but we want to give it to the local police force and not the KDP," he said.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, and the KDP of Massoud Barzani have shared power in northern Iraq since a 1992 election.

The rival groups have clashed frequently in and around Erbil, the seat of Kurdish power in northern Iraq, in the last year. The latest round of fighting began in mid-December.

The Kurds set up a regional government in Erbil after breaking away from Baghdad's authority following the Gulf war in 1991. They are protected from Iraqi government forces by a Western allied air force based in southern Turkey.

KDP radio, meanwhile, charged that PUK forces were shelling Suleymaniya in northeastern Iraq, killing civilians and damaging homes.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday urged the warring Kurds to accept President Saddam Hussein's offer to mediate.

Armed guards ride train to Egypt's tourist sites

separate compartments from the rest of the train.

"It frightens me," said 68-year-old American Betty Graham, but one Australian woman who did not want to be named found it reassuring. Texan Michelle Eavitt, 29, said: "I wrote my will before leaving."

But none of those questioned had been told of the dangers by their travel agency, even though many embassies in Cairo warn their nationals not to journey to Upper Egypt by road or train.

One U.S. tourist was surprised the train stopped shortly afterwards at Giza, saying she had been assured it went straight through to Luxor.

But later as the tourists slept it stopped again first in Asyut, 400 kilometres down the line and a former militant stronghold, and then in Qena, 200 kilometres further south.

From there it sped on towards Luxor passing swiftly through the area where trains have been the target of attack, most of them claimed by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

So far one person has died and 40 were wounded in attacks on Train 84, 10 of them tourists.

At the end of December a policeman was killed when militants boarded the train, changing their usual pattern of firing at it from below with automatic weapons before fleeing into the dense cover of nearby sugar-cane fields.

"We are waiting to die," said one fatalistic steward.

But this time, the journey was completed without anything more serious than a blocked door between two carriages.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE reports 15 marine accidents

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Tanker collisions and leaks from oil terminals caused 15 marine pollution accidents in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1994, an official report said on Saturday. The worst accident occurred in March off the eastern port of Fujairah, when nearly 15,000 tonnes of crude spilled into the Gulf of Oman after two tankers collided, the report by the coastguard authorities said.

Other accidents involved damage to oil pipelines and loading terminals but were not serious, the report said. Six accidents occurred in Dubai, five in Abu Dhabi and the rest in the other five emirates. The report made no mention of daily dumping of sludge and other waste by tankers cleaning their oil storage tanks.

Saddam uses a double — Sunday Times

LONDON (APP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein employs a double to avoid being assassinated during public appearances, The Sunday Times reported. The paper said the double whose real name was Fawaz Al'Emari had been given plastic surgery to make him look even more like the Iraqi leader. The Sunday Times carried on its front page a photograph widely published two years ago purporting to show President Saddam bathing in the Tigris River. The legend underneath the photo said: "Guess who? No, it's not Saddam Hussein." The paper's report said: "The first confirmation of what had previously only been suspected comes from an army officer who was himself forced to act as the double for Uday," the Iraqi leader's eldest son. Latif Yaha acted as Uday's double for four years before managing to escape from Iraq and flee to Vienna where he obtained political asylum, the report said. Mr. Yaha was quoted as saying that President Saddam's first double was killed in 1984 when a car-bomb exploded as the double was travelling in a car from Baghdad to Tikrit, President's birthplace.

Freed Briton flown to Pakistan

KABUL (AFP) — British national Eden Fernandez who was held captive by an Afghan Shiite faction in west Kabul for eight months was flown out of Afghanistan on a special Red Cross flight Sunday. "We were requested by British diplomats present in Kabul to fly Fernandez out of Afghanistan which we gladly accepted on humanitarian grounds," said Peter Stocker, Kabul chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mr. Fernandez was released Saturday by the Shiite Hezbollah faction leader Abdul Ali Mazari into the custody of Pakistan-based British diplomat Stephen Evans.

The galloping bozkhashi

horsemen of northern Afghanistan

animals for the sport.

The game sounds simple enough but it is very dangerous to play and requires great skill to "score a goal," for although Afghans pretend bozkhashi is played by two teams, most players scorn the benefits of group cooperation for the greater glory of solo victory."

In true Afghan tradition, personal competition is fierce, and the only true team-work in bozkhashi is between the master-players — called chapandaz — and their specially trained horses, which are valued as high as \$15,000 each.

One of the horsemen broke free from the mob with the calf wedged under his leg and dashed at full gallop across the open plain

towards the flag as challengers followed in hot pursuit.

Whips in mouths and steering their mounts by their stirrups, two riders each fought with both hands in a tug-of-war for possession of the calf, until one broke free, wheeled around the flag and charged back to the circle to drop the carcass.

The judges passed over wads of cash prize-money as a herald bawled the winner's name out loud and other players, who perhaps rode interference for the winner, crowded in to claim a share of the money.

Children pedalled locally-made popcorn and smugged American cigarettes as the bozkhashi sponsor announced a new prize,

stirring the frenzy all over again and continuing until the carcass was reduced to a ragged fleshless pellet.

Bozkhashi was often used as a metaphor to describe the cold war struggle between the superpowers in which Afghanistan itself was the contested prize.

But sadly, long after the Soviet Red Army and the defeat of the Afghan communists, the imagery is still appropriate.

In April 1992 the mujahideen captured Kabul but competing factions are still engaged in a bloody struggle for absolute power.

If the current grab for Kabul proves as difficult as bozkhashi, then the capital faces the same fate as the carcass — total annihilation.

Central Asian telephone repairmen

Abdel Telephone Repair 623101

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN: Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES: Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS: Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN: Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

Home News

Queen receives 'International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Jordan Saturday night from a working visit to the United States, a Royal Court statement said Sunday.

At a ceremony at the United Nations on Friday, the National Organisation of Arab-American Women (NOAAW) presented the Queen with the "International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace." United Nations Fund for Popular Activities (UNFPA) Director-General Nafisa Sadik, represented the U.N. secretary general at the ceremony, which was also attended by several government officials, heads and members of diplomatic missions and prominent members of the Arab-American community.

In her address at the United Nations, Queen Noor reviewed some of the possibilities Jordan envisages for the emerging Middle East and emphasised the "increasingly relevant role of women and of organisations such as... (NOAAW) to our (the Kingdom's) quest for a new society in this era of transformation," the Royal Court statement said.

Speaking of the Arab World, the Queen said: "We must reassess our past differences and look towards reinforcing national achievements and strengths with the immeasurable forces of integration and economics of scale; and we must develop a common vision of our future based on our shared history and strong cultural bonds."

According to the statement, Queen Noor added that "The new Middle East that we seek to pass on to our children offers the promise

of peace, development and stability. But it is impossible to speak credibly of these without speaking of social justice, political participation and fundamental human rights. Our countries face the common challenge to mobilise the talents and energies of all their members to achieve economic and political development that is sustainable, equitable and responsive to real needs."

Speaking of the role of Arab women, Queen Noor, according to the statement, said that "While in all Arab societies, women still face varying degrees of legal and social obstacles to their personal development, professional fulfillment and participation in public and political life, large numbers of women have nevertheless contributed to and benefited from the development momentum of recent decades. Unlike their prevalent portrayal in the West, many Arab women are educated, deeply involved in family and local community decisions, and increasingly active in political, professional and economic life at the national level. The rising level of education of Arab girls and women has been one of the most profound and positive forces of change in our region."

Queen Noor added that "The world now has an exciting and historic opportunity to work together for human development goals which are deeply rooted in a common, moral legacy of justice, humanism and peace."

The statement said the Queen expressed her concern that the "new momentum of hope and cooperation is threatened by disquieting predictions, appearing in the



discourse of Western analysts, of an inevitable and violent clash of cultures, particularly between the Islamic and Western worlds. At this moment of global change and hope, it would be a great tragedy and a tremendous waste to allow the ideological polarisation that characterised the cold war era to be replaced by a civilisational confrontation, based on ignorance and unfounded fears."

According to the statement, the Queen emphasised the role of individuals throughout the world and of international organisations in the establishment of a meaningful and constructive dialogue between the Western and Arab/Islamic worlds and in the promotion of better cross-cultural understanding.

NOAAW also serves as a focal point for the involvement of Arabs and Arab-Americans in activities that enhance opportunities for women.

standing. The National Organisation of Arab-American Women is a non-profit organisation established in 1992 to promote the interests of Arab and Arab-American women in the United States, and to increase their visibility and influence and ensure their representation in American political, social, economic and academic circles.

The organisation supports educational and training activities for Arab women in the Middle East and assists them in their efforts to achieve economic, political and social advancement.

"The GSP scheme has not achieved its goals," said the minister. "If the GSP goals were to be achieved, then all restrictions and limitations imposed by the developed countries on imports from the developing countries should be removed."

Mr. Abu Ragheb as well as other speakers at the seminar noted that Jordan's industrial base was relatively small and exports from the Kingdom did not pose any threat to developing countries.

As such, he said, detailed discussions on trade agreements and practices aimed at familiarising Jordanian exporters on how to use the accord would be much more beneficial to the private sector as well as the economy as a whole if it leads to higher

'Developed countries should lift restraints on imports from developing countries'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb Sunday called for the lifting of what he said were conditions and restraints imposed by developed countries on imports from the developing world despite preferential trade agreements.

Mr. Abu Ragheb, addressing the opening session of a three-day seminar on how Jordan could benefit from international trade agreements, said the government was also exerting efforts to increase Jordan's exports and help local industries increase output.

"Jordan is reviewing its economic policies, and this seminar is of key importance to the country," Mr. Abu Ragheb said, noting that the gathering was dedicated to discussing the requirements and procedures related to exports under preferential trade agreements such as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and others.

"At a time when export promotion is a policy of most governments, and the private sector is assuming increased interest in opportunities, we find that developed countries are attaching some limitations and conditions to imports from developing countries," Mr. Abu Ragheb said. These include criteria of origin, local industrial input and other parameters as well as exclusion of some products, he noted.

"The GSP scheme has not achieved its goals," said the minister. "If the GSP goals were to be achieved, then all restrictions and limitations imposed by the developed countries on imports from the developing countries should be removed."

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Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb presides over a national market access conditions to Jordanian exports (Petra photo)

developing countries signature to the accord insist on the exporters meeting what is widely seen as an ever-increasing list of requirements.

The seminar that opened Sunday at the Amman Chamber of Industry is organised by the chamber in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

During the course of the three-day event, UNCTAD officials, European Union and U.S. representatives and local and foreign experts are scheduled to address the audience on the various aspects of international trade accords and how to implement them to the best of Jordan's advantage.

Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, told the opening session that the Jordanian government was actively engaged in efforts to promote exports and widen the Kingdom's industrial scope by helping the private sector.

As such, he said, detailed discussions on trade agreements and practices aimed at familiarising Jordanian exporters on how to use the accord would be much more beneficial to the private sector as well as the economy as a whole if it leads to higher

standards.

"The seminar is an inseparable part of the efforts to advance the national economy," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said

Japan, the United States and Europe exported \$1,907 million worth of goods to Jordan in 1993 while the Kingdom's exports to these countries were \$79 million. Europe alone exported goods worth \$1,083 million to Jordan in 1993, while taking in \$42 million in Jordanian exports, he said, calling for stepped up efforts at all levels to address the imbalance.

Teruo Ujije, UNCTAD coordinator on technical cooperation programmes on GSP and other trade laws, described the seminar as an important activity that would help Jordan's exporters.

The active presence of experts from various organisations at this seminar is a clear reflection of their interest in providing technical cooperation as a means to assist your country to further its external trade sector," Mr. Ujije told the meeting.

"The utilisation of the various forms of preferential trade will assist your country to gain increased market access."

Diego Brasilioli, chargé d'affaires at the Italian embassy, noted that the decision of his government to finance the seminar "shows the interest of Italy in promoting the full advantages of trade systems in order to allow the exporters to take greater advantage of trade accords when armed with the knowledge of the theoretical and practical steps of applying them."

Quoting from the final declaration of the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic summit held in Casablanca on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Brasilioli emphasised the need to lift trade barriers, including boycotts. "It is a commitment taken seriously by the government of Italy," he said.

Omar Hashem, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan, said there was "no question that preferential trade, either through GSP or bilateral treaties, creates economic incentives to the benefit of developing countries."

Noting that UNDP has financed and is continuing to fund GSP-related projects at various levels, Dr. Hashem expressed hope that "activities such as the present seminar can actively contribute to further developing a better knowledge in the country needed to achieve its objectives of development."

France last week decided to open an interests section at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad amid protests by the United States and Britain. Meanwhile, UAE officials were urging Kuwait to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said in New York earlier this month that he expected the sanctions to be partially lifted within a period of two months.

Jordan, Mr. Qaqish said, implements the resolutions as any other country, although it is one of the countries most affected by them.

The lifting of the sanctions regime will certainly have positive effects on the Jordanian and Iraqi economies, particularly since the Gulf of Aqaba has been the only port permitted to take in materials allowed by the sanctions for transport to Iraq, Mr. Qaqish said.

"Jordan has always called for discussing the issue logically to come up with comprehensive solutions, not partial ones, to emphasise good neighbourly relations and good inter-Arab, Arab-Islamic and Arab-international relations," Mr. Qaqish asserted.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty, is known for being the first on

er we nor the international community nor any human being condones keeping a whole people under siege."

"The sanctions are not only preventing the entry of material to the country, but have led to other negative consequences, even in cultural fields," he said, expressing optimism that the sanctions would be lifted soon.

"By nature I am optimistic, and no doubt the siege will be eventually lifted. It is just a matter of time because really, the suffering of the Iraqi people is great; besides the sanctions are affecting Jordan as well," he said.

The ambassador voiced hope that the sanctions will be lifted, saying there were significant indications that the way Iraq is viewed at the regional and international levels is different from the way it was one or two years ago, especially after Iraq recognised its borders with Kuwait.

He said it was up to the U.N. to decide whether Iraq is in compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions issued during and after the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Qaqish welcomed initiatives, taken by France and some Arab countries to partially lift the sanctions.

"These initiatives, whether taken by France or the United Arab Emirates, call for optimism that the sanctions will end soon," he said. "Ultimately neither

more than one occasion to call for the use of reason not force, and dialogue not violence," the ambassador said.

He expressed confidence that all of the region's countries, including Iraq, will be included in any new regional order resulting from the Middle East peace process, saying King Hussein and his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have always reiterated that all the region's countries will be partners in actively contributing to planning and organising such an order.

Saying he feels "honoured" to be chosen for the post, Mr. Qaqish said he was eager to assume his duties in Baghdad.

Mr. Qaqish, a former army officer and minister of water and irrigation, said he expected full cooperation from the Iraqi government.

Mr. Qaqish will succeed Nasoul Al Majali, who will be serving as the Kingdom's ambassador to Canada.

Ministry to take steps to control numbers of higher education programme specialties

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to the country's ailing unemployment problems, a proposed council for accreditation of Jordan's college faculties will play a role in future government policy of strict control over the number of university programmes in each academic specialty which would be allowed to operate in the Kingdom, as well as the number of students each faculty may admit, Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud said Sunday.

"We will strictly control the output of graduates from universities in Jordan, both the public and the private ones," Dr. Saoud told the Jordan Times.

For example, because of the current profound overflow of engineering graduates into the local job market, "we may close a certain number of engineering programmes in a certain number of universities," he explained. In addition to this, "we may grant certain faculties accreditation, but tell them you can only accept 30 students per year in this school."

The proposed committee,

currently referred to in official legal drafts as "The Association for Accreditation of Higher Education," and tentatively due to be finalised within two weeks, would work as a sub-council answerable to the Council of Higher Education and bring "a more serious approach" to official evaluation and rating of higher education programmes in Jordan, Dr. Saoud said.

Experts have often noted that while unemployed graduates abound in some specialties, notable among them engineering and business administration, medium-level professional technicians and specialists, as well as skilled tradespeople, are badly needed by employers but often difficult to find.

Such experts have pointed to this poor conformity of university graduates to the actual demands of the labour market, as playing a substantial hand in Jordan's soaring unemployment rate — over 18 per cent as of 1993, according to Ministry of Labour statistics.

"We will have two future goals," said Dr. Saoud: "To insure that all students who do enter Jordanian universities have good scores on the

Britain to help Jordan combat drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the international assistance branch at the British Customs and Excise Department, now on a visit to Jordan, Sunday expressed his country's readiness to provide technical assistance to the Public Security Department (PSD) to help it combat drug trafficking.

Tom Matthews, who started a visit to the Kingdom Saturday, was speaking to PSD Director General Abdul Rahman Udwan with whom he discussed prospects for

mutual cooperation in curtailed drug trafficking operations.

Mr. Matthews was quoted as saying that his talks in Jordan would give the way for British assistance to the PSD.

He said the British customs department hopes to lay the foundation for close cooperation with the PSD in stemming smuggling, particularly drug trafficking.

For his part Lt. Gen. Udwan said that the Kingdom does not have a problem with drug addiction, and the number of addicts are few.

In a statement to the press Sunday, Mr. Darwazeh said the two companies are expected to be set up in three to four months.

Although optimistic about finding commercially feasible amounts of natural gas in

various parts of the country, the minister said that searches conducted so far have come up with only 15 per cent of the Kingdom's needs.

The national company will either conduct its own explorations or work in conjunction with oil firms, the minister said, adding that the company will be wholly owned by the state in the initial stages, but later the private sector could be invited to purchase shares.

Referring to electric power, he said that the Kingdom was expected to witness significant growth in industry and a major increase in electricity consumption rates.

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Proposed national company to search for oil, gas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has finalised plans to establish a national oil and natural gas exploration company as well as a mining company in the Azraq region to search for other minerals, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh.

In a statement to the press Sunday, Mr. Darwazeh said the two companies are expected to be set up in three to four months.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

★ Concert by Spanish jazz pianist Tele Montal at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

★ Film (in French) entitled "Le Dernier Metro" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Film entitled "The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci (Part III) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khaleel)" at Darat Al Funun at 5:30 p.m.

LECTURES

★ Slide lecture (in German and Arabic) entitled "The German and Turkish Religions of John" by Dr. Dieter Glade at the Association of Jordanian Writers at 5:30 p.m.

★ Lecture entitled "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Taleb at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

★ Plays (in Arabic) entitled "Jazirat Al

EXHIBITIONS

Ma'iz" (The Goat Island) and another one entitled "Khyar Kardabek" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.</p

Clinton seeks to rally Democrats following rout

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— President Bill Clinton, seeking to rally his Democratic Party after its rout last fall, called Saturday for cooperation with Republicans as the party reorganises to plan for the 1996 elections.

Paraphrasing Mark Twain, the president quipped: "Re-ports of our demise are premature."

But Mr. Clinton said the Democrats should follow a strategy of working with the new majority where possible, while highlighting differences on matters of principle.

"There are many areas in which we can find agreement. We must be big enough to seek those areas," Mr. Clinton said at a meeting of the Democratic National Committee to install its new leadership.

Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut was sworn in as general chairman of the party while Don Fowler was named national chairman under a new structure proposed by Mr. Clinton.

The new hierarchy, similar to that used by Republicans, gives the Democrats a prominent, articulate national spokesman while leaving Mr. Fowler in charge of day-to-day management of the party.

"He (Dodd) is not afraid to fight," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Dodd said meanwhile that the party must not dwell on its mistakes, which resulted in the election land-

slide Nov. 8 that gave Republicans control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

"The wake is over," Mr. Dodd said. "The period of mourning is behind us."

Under the new political landscape, the Republicans are expected to seek deep cuts in social programmes in a bid to reduce the size of government, in some cases dismantling programmes built up by Democratic administrations since the 1930s.

A poll released Saturday by U.S. News and World Report showed 54 per cent of respondents believed Mr. Clinton should cooperate with the new majority in Congress, while 35 per cent said he should fight for Democratic positions.

While Mr. Clinton called for cooperation, he suggested this would have limits.

"I don't believe government is inherently bad," he said.

Mr. Clinton and the newly reorganised party have nearly two years before the 1996 elections to reverse the party's fortunes in its bid to regain a congressional majority and maintain the White House.

This is a tall order, even though polls have shown a slight rise in Mr. Clinton's popularity since his low profile in recent weeks.

Although Mr. Clinton is trying to portray himself as a moderate, Mr. Dodd is clearly from the liberal wing of the

party, which seems at odds with this new strategy.

But analysts say the choice of Mr. Dodd may be a smart one by solidifying the party's base among liberals.

"No matter where Bill Clinton claims he is moving, the Democratic Party is a liberal party in the United States. Clinton is not even in the balmy if he cannot hold down his base," said Stephen Hess, a presidency scholar with the Brookings Institution.

Quayle fit for nomination

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis former Vice President Dan Quayle said Saturday he expects to become a formal candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in mid-April, and despite two recent stays in hospital is in top health for the fight.

"In the coming weeks... I will be making some important decisions about the future... but I do want you to know this: My doctors told me you can go wherever you want, you can do whatever you want and you can say whatever you want," he said in remarks prepared for delivery at a sales convention.

"My friends, I am back in the arena — and that's where I'm going to stay."

Before his speech, Mr. Quayle released a brief statement saying he planned to file a declaration of his candidacy with the Federal Election Commission by Feb. 21



Vehicles and tents form a new community Saturday for some of those left homeless from the Jan. 17 earthquake.

Many school playgrounds and public parks are now camping grounds for victims (AP photo)

Grim day's work in Kobe for crew digging out collapsed apartment

KOBE, Japan (AP) — The wind was chilly, the sky was threatening, and the work was grim and dirty.

In the earthquake-ravaged centre of Kobe, what had been a nondescript seven-story apartment house was reduced to a pile of rubble.

Somewhere under tonnes of cement and steel were a dozen people. Workers hoped to find them alive but knew the odds were with death.

In two days of arduous digging, 15 people had been pulled out — only five of them alive.

"The situation is terrible, and it's going to get worse," said a crewman, a member of the self-defence forces, one of thousands of troops dispatched to the scene of Tuesday's devastating quake.

"We're doing all we can, and we hope that there'll be more cases like the little boy we rescued last night," he said.

That little boy was one of the few bright spots in a bleak landscape. His name was Shinsuke Yamada. Nine years old, he was rescued nearly 60 hours after the quake, watching the workers dig.

Mr. Mandala, who will arrive Tuesday, will be guest of honour at India's Republic Day celebrations Jan. 26, when it stages a major military and civil parade to mark the day India launched its democratic constitution.

The South African leader, who was last in India in October 1990, will also visit parliament and unveil a statue to India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

He will meet Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, speak to Indian industrialists and sign a number of general cooperation agreements between India and South Africa.

"The visit will consolidate the historic bonds between the two countries," said Anand Sharma, chairman of the Indian-South African Friendship Association. "It is of great emotional significance for India and its people."

As the rescuers dug, they occasionally came across valuables such as documents or jewelry. They would carry them carefully into a small lot designated as a morgue area for family members to claim.

He suffered some injuries

Aya Koizumi, 20, went to high school with one of those trapped inside. She came to watch and pray.

"I hope he's still alive," she said. "There's still a chance they can save him."

Shohei Kamata was a college classmate of one of those buried in the building. He was living in another part of Japan when the quake hit but hurried home to check on friends and family.

"I saw lots of coverage of the earthquake on TV, so I've gotten used to the terrible scenes, but still it's a shock to see the actual thing," he said.

"It's awful," he said.

Four large cranes were being used to lift the rubble piece by piece, so as not to crush anyone pinned beneath. The cranes' pincers seized chunks of reinforced concrete and refrigerators.

At mid-morning, there was a ripple of activity. The workers had found something.

"The heavy equipment was called off. Army and police rescue workers moved in with shovels and pickaxes. They dug with those, and with their

hands.

Forty minutes later, they brought out what turned out to be the first of three bodies.

Relatives standing by were red-eyed and tearful. Anger, exhaustion and frustration were beginning to take their toll.

When the bodies were found, tensions boiled over.

Four young men, relatives of some of those trapped, became furious when they saw news photographers taking pictures of the dead being pulled from the rubble.

They attacked two AP

photographers, kicking one

and breaking the cameras of both.

"How can you take pictures of our dead while we're suffering?" they shouted.

The workers did what they could to shield the privacy of the dead. While some pulled our bodies, others held up blankets to block the view of bystanders.

The workers took the bodies to a makeshift morgue, a little empty lot with buildings on both sides with a blanket hung across it so people couldn't look inside.

To one side of the entryway lay a bunch of flowers.

Rescuers begin clearing

snow near Kashmir tunnel

JAMMU, India (R) — Indian authorities began clearing three-metre deep snow near a high-altitude tunnel Sunday after avalanches closed a key Kashmir highway last week, trapping thousands of motorists and travellers.

The road — which links Jammu, the winter capital of the northernmost Jammu and Kashmir state, with Srinagar, the summer capital — remained blocked for the seventh day after India's worst avalanche disaster.

More than 5,000 people were rescued after falling rocks and snow pushed vehicles off the strategic Himalayan 290 kilometre highway.

Angry citizens voiced concern about what they said was the government's lack of foresight.

"The government is responsible," Tafiq Sadig, Srinagar district chief of India's ruling Congress Party, told Reuters by telephone.

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan troops and Tamil guerrillas extended a truce that had been due to expire at midnight Saturday, as the military further eased a goods embargo against the war-torn north, officials said.

"(It the truce) is still holding. We have no problems with that. As long as they observe it, we too will reciprocate," said a military spokesman here.

The ceasefire, which came into effect two weeks ago, had been largely respected despite dozens of minor violations by rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), military officials said.

The truce was originally planned only for a 14-day trial period under an accord signed earlier this month by President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Velupillai Prabhakaran, head of the LTTE, after a second round of peace negotiations at the LTTE stronghold of northern Jaffna.

But following a third round of talks just over a week ago, both sides agreed to extend the truce on an open-ended basis, although ongoing negotiations have so far failed to broach substantive political issues.

The LTTE has insisted that

crucial political talks could

start only when a rehabilitation

and reconstruction pro-

gramme for the war-torn

north east was finalised and a

military camp in the north was dismantled.

Defence authorities have

said that the northern

Poornary camp would not be

removed, but would be pul-

ed back from a key land-

route in the region.

Meanwhile, the military

partially lifted an embargo

banning specific goods from

being exported to and im-

ported from the LTTE-held

north.

Transit bans were lifted on

12 items — short of the 20

agreed to by the government

delegation at the last round

of talks with the LTTE.

The latest items exempted

include printing machines,

toy guns and electrical wires,

electric and electronic equip-

ment, printing machines,

gold, chemicals and motor

spare parts.

Some 50 goods are still

banned from the northern

areas that came under mil-

itary siege.

Mrs. Kumaratunga partially

lifted the economic embargo

after leading her People's

Alliance to victory at the

August parliamentary elec-

tions in a bid to open a

dialogue with the LTTE to

try and speed up the peace

process.

Among the items removed

at that time were all medi-

cines, food, sanitary napkins

and kerosene oil.

The government remains

undecided on whether to lift

five other items including

remote-control devices,

binoculars, telescopes and

compasses.

Meanwhile on Sunday, Sri

Lanka's influential Buddhist

clergy condemned an over-

night visit here by Pope John

Paul II and said the pontiff's

Asia-Pacific tour was an "ex-

ension of Catholic imperial-

ism."

A Buddhist lobby de-

scribed as a "total success"

their boycott of the Pope's

visit here Saturday marking

the final leg of an 11-day tour

that also took him to the

Philippines, Papua New

Guinea and Australia.

"We could have attended

an inter-religious meeting

with the Pope only if he made

some gesture to apologize to

the Buddhist world," a

spokesman for the Federation

of Buddhist Organisations

World News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1995 5

italian police find
13 million fake
dollars

ITALY, Italy (R) — Italian police said on Saturday they had seized fake U.S. dollar bills totaling \$13 million and arrested five people. A spokesman said four of those arrested had been caught money-laundering printing money at a high-tech plant on the outskirts of Milan. Investigators believe the fake dollars destined for Eastern Europe.

Police arrest
Italian Mafia
fugitive

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Mafia fugitive condemned to 18 years in prison for the 1976 slayings of members of Italy's paramilitary police force near Naples, Italy, was captured by police Friday in São Paulo, about 48 kilometers west of São Paulo. Mr. Santino Tedeschi, after being on the run for 18 years in prison, was captured by police in São Paulo after he had fled Brazil. Brazilian police accused Santino of leading a vast money-laundering operation in São Paulo. His trial date for extradition was immediately set.

Snow scooter
owners protest against
environmentalistsJUKKASJÄRVI, Sweden (AFP) — Snow scooter enthusiasts staged a demonstration Saturday in this far-north Swedish town to protest against efforts by environmentalists to have restrictions imposed on the vehicle's use. Scooter lobby claims the sport's two-stroke engines pollute air significantly, particularly toxic smoke. They reckon that a scooter would have to travel 25 million kilometers to produce as much CO₂ as a 1,000-kilometer flight. They were told it would take them 10 hours. Ten thousand scooterists from Sweden, Norway and Finland are expected to drive, soccer enthusiasts. One environmentalist admitted that the initiative had cost him "a few extra euros" of his own expense. Environmentalists' association director Göran Dahlström said organization preferred registration and was not at a loss for counter-arguments.Non-Jewish
student suspended for
wearing star of David

MENDON, Michigan (AP) — A high school senior was the star of David because he made him feel safe. School officials told students to look like members of the "The Principals." The principal's wife, however, was not allowed to wear the star. Ron Vaughn, a 17-year-old freshman at Mendon High School, "But he didn't want to wear a cross," he said. "Administrators said the star of David was being used as a symbol of some gang," Vaughn said. He is suspended for refusing to take off his shirt. He said the star of David is different from the cross, more like a symbol, a follower. "Official school officials" are the ones who made him look like a member. "The principals are not allowed to wear the star of David," he said.

Diplomats said ministers were likely to use the opposite approach on Croatia by damping the prospect of negotiations for an economic cooperation agreement with Zagreb if it "plays the game" in the fragile peace process in former Yugoslavia.

In a familiar situation reflecting the EU's lack of ability to halt foreign bloodshed, union foreign ministers may look at whether to exert pressure on Moscow over its handling of the Chechen war by delaying the signature of a trade accord.

Diplomats said ministers were likely to use the opposite approach on Croatia by damping the prospect of negotiations for an economic cooperation agreement with Zagreb if it "plays the game" in the fragile peace process in former Yugoslavia.

Ministers will also discuss the situation in Algeria and plans for a Euro-Mediterranean conference later this year which will focus on the need for regional economic development to ward off the spread of Algerian-style Islamic fundamentalism.

The first regular monthly meeting of the new enlarged EU will start with a public debate on the work programme of the union's six-month French presidency before paying tribute to outgoing commission President Jacques Delors.

The same diplomat said ministers would have to de-

do in Ghana now is to elect the chairman," said Mr. Walker, whose group is in the coalition.

Led by Mr. Weah, voted African player of the year in a prestigious French poll and courted by top Italian side AC Milan, Liberia were looking for a victory in Sunday's match to take them into the Nations Cup finals in South Africa in 1996.

"This occasion can be used as a way for the politicians and warlords to forget their differences and unite to rebuild a successful Liberia," Mr. Weah told Reuters.

Local Red Cross worker John Jallah said Liberia's political problems eclipsed thoughts of the match last week. "Enthusiasm for the game was very low. I think that has changed now," he added, before the announcement.

BELTIG (R) — China passed two directives last month attempting to control illegal lotteries worth more than \$1 billion. The new rules, making lotteries illegal, were suspended over them, were passed a month after concern over the extent of non-state lotteries, it said.

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A dispute between Gen. Bowen's Armed Forces of Liberia, once the national army, and a coalition of smaller militias over who should occupy the last of five seats on a transitional ruling council has thrown the timetable off course.

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Business & Finance

**Business
Daily
Beat.**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

'No capital gain tax'

** "First class" official sources said that the income tax draft law was withdrawn and that a new draft, which would not include a capital gain tax and would not differentiate between individuals and companies, is being prepared by Al Aswad.

** Amman was selected as the site for the secretariat of the economy development working group which was formed after the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Ra'i).

** Loans and grants extended by the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) last year totalled JD 3,283,910, that financed 813 projects and created 1,329 work opportunities. The fund's overall lending since its inception, in 1991, until the end of 1994, reached JD 10,347,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,930 work opportunities. 32.7 per cent of the credits benefited projects in Amman while 16.7 per cent financed projects in Irbid. Madaba's share was 8.2 per cent while Zarqa and Ajloun followed with 6.6 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively (Al Ra'i).

** International prices of sesame seeds have risen from \$750 a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne and, as such, tahineh (sesame paste) factories raised their prices to JD 1.45 a kilogramme, compared to JD 1.00 previously. With the prices of tahineh going up, the price of a plate of hummus is expected to go up too (Al Aswad).

** The number of computer businesses exceeds 350, with a noticeable presence in Gardens Street (Wash Al Tal). However, only 10 of these businesses are able to enter large tenders. With high demand for computers from banks and government ministries, the computer sector is expected to remain active in the near future (Al Aswad).

** Coffee prices went down by an average of JD 1 per kilogramme. As a result, a kilogramme now costs JD 5. An official source at the Ministry of Supply said the ministry was continuing its demands to traders to further lower prices to JD 4.5 a kilogramme as coffee prices are falling internationally (Al Ra'i).

** Zarqa Educational and Investment Company is accepting subscription for new shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 1.200 (JD par value and 200 fils premium), reflect the increase in the capital of the company by JD 1.5 million. Shareholders cannot buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 8, 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

** The Zarqa Municipality is finalising its 1995 budget which is expected to be around the same level of 1994, JD 6.7 million. The municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a revenue of JD 5.3 million, the figures representing 77 per cent and 88 per cent respectively of the amounts estimated in the budget (Al Ra'i).

** Royal Jordanian announced starting the modernisation of its cargo fleet, which consists of three Boeing 707s. Royal Jordanian carried 55,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994, 1.5 per cent more than previous year. The cargo fleet is expected to increase flight hours to 8,800 this year (Al Ra'i).

** The Ministry of Education has agreed with the central bank on issuing special bonds to raise JD 20 million to support the housing fund for teachers. The mechanism for the teachers to obtain housing loans from the fund will be carried out through the Housing Bank (Al Ra'i).

Hindu groups step up 'Buy Indian' campaign

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Right-wing Hindu groups which once advocated free trade are now urging Indians to shun foreign goods and "Buy Indian" in a stepped-up campaign against the government sweeping economic reforms.

Walls in the capital are scrawled with graffiti denouncing multinational corporations and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's efforts to globalise an Indian economy that remained largely sheltered until three-and-a-half years ago.

"Our ideas are based on an alternative thinking," he said. "A nation should largely live within its means and produce for its own market with trans-country commerce restricted to its needs."

The SJM has been promoted by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"We want to create a nationalist feeling that every nation has to evolve a mind of its own in economics," S. Gurumurthy, a convenor of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJIM, National Awakening Forum), said in an interview.

"The integration of India with the rest of the world will be restricted to just one per cent of our population," he said, referring to criticism that only the elite have profited from the reforms initiated by New Delhi in June 1991.

"If people do not buy the wasteful hundreds of multinational companies, they would be standing by their country," he said.

Mr. Gurumurthy, a chartered accountant and an RSS activist, said the inflow of foreign goods into the country would stifle domestic industry.

"When we talk of self-reliance, we are talking of the way an Indian mind approaches life, including economics," he said. "Our economists do not know the Indian ethos."

SJM pamphlets urge Indians to shun foreign-made products such as toothpaste, shaving cream, soaps and detergents, cosmetics, soft drinks, paint, canned food

National Volunteer Corps), a powerful Hindu revivalist group and its allies that command hundreds of thousands of supporters.

Mr. Gurumurthy, dressed in clothes made from home-spun cotton, said the SJM wanted Indians to boycott foreign brands like during the country's independence campaign and go for only local products.

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"When we talk of self-reliance, we are talking of the way an Indian mind approaches life, including economics," he said. "Our economists do not know the Indian ethos."

"We are advocating a savings-oriented society, a society based on conservation which cannot be based on exports-based models," Mr. Gurumurthy said. "The West cannot appreciate this."

The campaign began in November 1992, a year after the reforms got underway, but ebbed after a while. It has resumed with renewed vigour and on a nationwide scale.

"We are surprised at the response from the people," said Mr. Gurumurthy, adding that thousands have attended meetings in cities and towns called to popularise the campaign against globalisation.

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Australian Open Americans dominate men's field; Germans knocked out

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champion Pete Sampras shook off his lethargy just in time, rallying from two sets down Sunday to defeat Sweden's Magnus Larsson and seal a place in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open Tennis Championships.

It was joined by fellow Americans Michael Chang and Jim Courier as the tournament took on a distinctly star-spangled look.

Sampras was twice within two points of defeat in the third set against Larsson, but recovered to win 4-6, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours and seven minutes. It was one of the best comebacks of his career after a strangely sluggish start.

The American reversed his loss to Larsson in last month's Grand Slam Cup final in Munich. It was only the second time in his career that Sampras had come two sets down to win.

"I knew going into this match that I'd have to fight hard," Sampras said. "He was playing too good for me and if he'd maintained that level he would have pulled it out."

"I just hung in there. I wasn't playing my best tennis, but I found a way to pull through."

Sampras' coach Tim Gullikson was admitted to hospital two days ago after suffering from dizzy spells that could relate to two strokes he suffered late last year.

Sampras talked with Gullikson before the match, gleaned some advice. "It's ironic. He was also in hospital when I played (Larsson) in Munich," Sampras said.

Larsson, who also led Sweden to victory over Russia in last month's Davis Cup final, served 19 aces, while Sampras slammed down 18 himself — 13 of them in the

last three sets.

Chang, the No. 5 seed, continued his impressive run by advancing with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over unseeded Frenchman Olivier Delaître.

"It's been a good first four rounds," Chang said after breaking Delaître's serve six times. "I still feel very fresh."

Courier, the ninth seed and two-time champion, scored his fourth straight-set victory by defeating Karel Nováček of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 and will now face his friend and rival Sampras in the quarterfinals.

Courier broke Nováček's serve five times and won in just 85 minutes.

"I'm playing very well," Courier said. "I couldn't be happier with the way I'm hitting the ball. (I've been) sneaking through the draw."

Only Andrei Medvedev, the 20-year-old No. 13 seed from Ukraine, spoiled the American party.

Medvedev took 3½ hours to defeat unseeded American David Wheaton 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 10-8 and now plays Chang.

"It's one of the most important wins in my career and will stay in my mind for a long time," Medvedev said. "David was very unlucky not to finish it off (when he served) at 5-4 in the fifth."

The 24-year-old Larsson, whose best Grand Slam performance is making the semifinals at last year's French Open, had not made it past the second round in six previous appearances at the Australian Open.

The 15th seed has spent the past 12 months lifting his fitness under the guidance of coach Calle Hageskog and went into the match with the tactic of keeping the ball on Sampras' forehand. It almost worked.

The 6-foot-3-inch (1.92 metres) tall Larsson broke

Sampras' serve twice in the first set, using clubbing forehand winners to take it in 33 minutes.

There were no service breaks in the second set, but Larsson moved 5-2 ahead in the tiebreaker and served it out.

"He was playing flawless tennis the first two sets," Sampras said. "When I won the third set that was a huge turning point."

The third set went on serve until Sampras broke in the 11th game and the American needed just one break — in the seventh game — to take out the fourth, which he clinched with an ace.

Sampras then took an early break in the decisive set and held on. Larsson, who had been so judicious with his placement in the first two sets began to make a catalogue of errors.

"I can't play much better than I did today. I don't think I would have lost to too many players, but he's No. 1 in the World," Larsson said.

"I don't know if he was playing badly or not, but I put a lot of pressure on him."

Conchita Martínez, the No. 2 seed from Spain and the current Wimbledon champion, made the last eight of the women's singles with a 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2 win over Irina Spirlea of Romania and was joined by No. 4 Mary Pierce of France, a 6-2, 6-4 winner in just 80 minutes of baseline slugging over No. 10 Anke Huber of Germany, who double-faulted on match point.

Huber had won her last three meetings with Pierce, but was let down by her serve. She sent down eight double faults and dropped serve five times.

Gavaldon, whose best Grand Slam performance was making the quarterfinals of the 1990 Australian Open, said she had set herself a

target of rewarding herself each time she won a match at the Australian Open.

"There's a shop next to my hotel and after each win I treat myself to a piece of clothing," said Gavaldon, who planned on buying a blazer after her 2-6, 6-3, 8-6 third-round win over American Lori McNeil.

Gavaldon said she also had to win to cover the costs of long-distance phone calls to her family and boyfriend.

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, is being played on rubberized rebound ace courts. It offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Jan. 29.

Australian Open Notebook

* Angelica Gavaldon has an added incentive to win matches at the Australian Open — prize money to help pay for her shopping bills.

"I'm really bad with money," said Gavaldon, 21, who plays No. 3 seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the fourth round on Monday.

"I spend so much it's a joke. My dad has to take care of it otherwise I would have none. I love spending money on clothes."

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* For me it creates more of a challenge," the 1989 French Open champion.

* Doubbling up: Australian Tennis legends Ken Rosewall and Fred Stolle are among 16 veterans taking part in the champions doubles event at the Australian Open. Rosewall has drawn former Wimbledon doubles champion Peter McNamara as his partner, while Stolle, now based in north Miami Beach, Fla., will play with Vijay Amritraj of India. The Stolle/Amritraj team unites rival broadcasters. Stolle for ESPN and Amritraj for the Rupert Murdoch-owned Star TV in Asia. McNamara and Rosewall are the top seeds with South Africa's Bob Hewitt and Chris Lewis of New Zealand the second seeds.

* Chang confident: Michael Chang is not afraid of facing world No. 1 Pete Sampras across a tennis net — and believes his fellow American's position at the top of the tennis mountain is

not impregnable.

"No-one is going to be No. 1 forever," Chang said after his third round 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 win over Czech Martin Damm at the Australian Open tennis championships.

"What goes up, must come down."

Chang, the 22nd seed, said the depth of men's tennis was increasing and it had helped turn him into a better rounded player.

* For me it creates more of a challenge," the 1989 French Open champion.

* Arantxa's Opinion: French and U.S. Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario rates the Australian Open the hardest of the four Grand Slam tournaments to win.

* It's the hardest one because you have to be able to be strong in the hot weather and the other conditions that you maybe do not have at the other tournaments," said the Spaniard, who is top seed in the absence of injured world No. 1 Steffi Graf.

* You have to be ready because it can be an indoor tournament (when the retractable roof is closed), like it has been happening so far."

* Chang confident: Michael Chang is not afraid of facing world No. 1 Pete Sampras across a tennis net — and believes his fellow American's position at the top of the tennis mountain is

women's field — doesn't believe she's likely to win a Grand Slam title just yet.

"I wouldn't pick myself to win at any tournament," said Davenport. "To win here would take an awful lot of good luck and good management."

"Some people would have to lose and on a couple of days I'd have to play really well."

* Delaître measures up: Frenchman Olivier Delaître takes on Michael Chang in the fourth round of the Australian Open — and the match will be a rare experience for the American.

* Gavaldon gets some one shorter than himself.

Delaître is the shortest man left in the draw at (1.70m). Fifth-seeded Chang is not much taller at (1.75m).

* Aussie moves: Six different venues have been used for the Australian Open, which is being staged for the 90th time this year.

The tournament has been held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and, strangely, New Zealand.

It was first held in 1905 as the Australasian Championships and was changed to the Australian Championships in 1927 and the

Australian Open in 1969. Melbourne, now the permanent home of the Open, is holding the tournament for the 40th time this year.

* Greg's bullet: Canada's Greg Rusedski headed the big-serving brigade after the first week of the Australian Open.

Rusedski powered down a 130.5 miles per hour (210 kph) serve despite falling to Andre Agassi Saturday.

Australian Patrick Rafter, who next faces Agassi, is a clear second. The local hero Roy went down under Ugo

in the first round.

The just out during game were

the game and were

Sports

Forest and Newcastle struggle

LONDON (AFP) — Nottingham Forest and Newcastle both failed to challenge the Premiership leaders as heavy rain postponed half of the day's fixtures.

Forest were beaten 2-1 at home by Midlands rivals Aston Villa, whose redoubt under Brian Little continued as they stretched their unbeaten run to seven matches with a well-deserved victory.

While defeat dented Forest's bid for a European place, the result was another boost to Villa in their attempt to climb well clear of the Premiership's relegation zone.

Villa made the brighter start to the game and were eventually rewarded in the 32nd minute when John Fasham pounced at the near post to stab home a cross from Irish international Steve Staunton.

Forest hit back in the second half through a Stan Collymore penalty in the 53rd minute after Dutchman Bryan Roy went down under a challenge from Ugo Ehiogu.

Forest enjoyed parity for just 15 minutes before Staunton sent over another cross from which the unmarked Dean Saunders planted his header past Mark Crossley.

Little remained cautious about his side's prospects of Premiership survival, saying: "Although we feel a little more comfortable now, there is still a lot of hard work to be done."

The lads showed plenty of character and the right attitude, but then they have been doing that for the past few weeks now."

Collymore, Forest's top scorer, hit back at suggestions that his club are on a downward slide after their third league defeat in four matches.

"Obviously, we are bitterly disappointed, but anybody who thinks we are on a downward slide is daft," he said.

Newcastle's hopes of boosting their fading title challenge by landing their first League victory of 1995 were held up by a rejuvenated Shefford Wednesday at Hillsborough in a goalless draw.

"You're never really happy with a draw but we didn't do enough to win," said Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan.

Keegan claimed that tiredness after his side's games against Manchester United and Blackburn had been a factor, adding: "I don't want to make anything of it, but I think possibly three games in six days took its toll. It just wasn't classic."

Arsenal's new 2.5 million pound striker John Hartson eased the pressure on boss

George Graham with a goal that brought some much-needed cheer to their suffering fans and a 1-0 win at Coventry.

Hartson, who was cup-tied as the Gunners crashed out of the FA Cup against Millwall in midweek, he returned to score his first goal for the club 12 minutes from time.

Coventry, who dropped into the bottom four, have now gone nine League games without a win, and their 28-year tenure in the top flight is under real threat.

Everton's twin strikeforce of Duncan Ferguson and Paul Rideout pat Joe Royle's Goodison Park revival back on track with the goals that brought a 3-1 victory and added Crystal Palace to the relegation equation.

The Merseysiders had won just one of their previous six outings following a three-game winning start under Royle's command, but they were given a dream opener by four million pound Ferguson.

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IOC set to choose finalists for 2002 Games

LAUSANNE (AP) — The race for the 2002 Winter Olympics is about to become much less crowded.

The record field of nine candidate cities — including front-runner Salt Lake City — will be cut to four finalists Tuesday by a special panel of the International Olympic Committee.

There's little suspense over which four will be selected. Based on an IOC evaluation report issued last month, the following are likely to make the cut: Salt Lake City, Ostersund, Sweden, Quebec, Canada and Sion, Switzerland.

Lyon beat Cannes 3-1 in France's match of the day Saturday to shoot up to second place above Paris St. Germain after garnering six points in the space of just 48 hours.

Lyon, only sixth two days earlier, was surprised to receive bonus of three points from the league on Thursday but did all their own spadework against Cannes, another candidate for a UEFA Cup berth.

Florian Maurice gave Lyon the lead in the first minute and though Croatian striker Ardan Kozmik equalised midway through the first half, Lyon took a deserved victory through goals from Stephane Roche and Claude-Arnaud Rivener.

Lyon moved above PSG on number of goals scored. Both are on 41 points, 10 ahead of runaway leaders Nantes.

Cannes stayed fourth as nearest rivals Auxerre and Bordeaux both failed to win.

Auxerre came from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Metz and Bordeaux went down 2-1 in St. Etienne despite taking the lead.

Neither PSG nor Nantes were in action. Their match played 10 days ago and won 3-0 by Nantes, had been brought forward because the Parc Des Princes Stadium was the venue for Saturday's rugby union international between France and Wales.

The selection committee, chaired by IOC vice-president Un Yong Kim of South Korea, will meet privately Tuesday to choose the four finalists — by consensus if possible. If there is no consensus, a secret ballot will be held.

The host city will be elected by the full IOC on June 16 during its session in Budapest, Hungary.

This is the first time the IOC has reduced the field of bidding cities before the final vote. Having nine candidates was considered unwieldy and too costly.

If successful, the IOC will consider using the

same procedure to trim the list of candidates for the 2004 Summer Olympics. A dozen cities have already expressed interest in bidding for those games.

Apart from weeding out unrealistic candidates, the main reason for reducing the field is to cut down on the cost of the bidding process.

Traditionally, all of the IOC's members — who currently number about 100 — are entitled to visit each of the bidding cities, flying first-class and staying at luxury hotels.

Under the streamlined system for the 2002 Games, the members can only visit the four finalists and must do so in groups. In addition, new restrictions have been enacted to limit the travel and expenses of the bidding committees.

Dave Johnson, vice president of Salt Lake City's bid team, said the new rules have saved his committee around \$1 million.

Salt Lake City has been the established front-runner all along, a position that was reinforced when the IOC report repeatedly praised the bid's "excellent" facilities, venues, roads and financial plans.

All nine cities will make 20-minute presentations to the IOC's 10-man selection committee on Monday.

This will be their last chance to impress the panel with charts, videos and speeches.

The other candidates acknowledge Salt Lake City's strength.

"Salt Lake City is the best technical bid," said Gunz, the Sion official. "It's not a surprise to see that. Technically, we can not compare with Salt Lake City. In Europe, we will never have a winter resort connected with a six-lane highway. But Salt Lake City also had the best bid last time. And look what happened then."

Indeed, in 1991, Salt Lake City lost by four votes to Nagano, Japan, for the

1998 games.

Quebec

15 - Patrice Loko (Nantes)

10 - Didier Tholot (Montpellier)

9 - Anton Drobajak (Bastia), Joel Tieh (Lens)

8 - Laurent Blanc (St. Etienne), Fabrice Divert (Montpellier), Lillian Laslandes (Auxerre), Rai (Paris St. Germain), Roland Wohlfarth (St. Etienne).

LEADING ENGLISH SCORERS

LEADING FRENCH LEAGUE SCORERS

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15 - Patrice Loko (Nantes)

10 - Alain Cavezza (Le Havre) Nicolas Onedec (Nantes)

10 - Didier Tholot (Montpellier), Valdeir (Bordeaux)

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straight games, all since the sudden resignation of head coach Dan Issel.

"Little Steve Colter comes up with an easy tip-in because we didn't match up on the boards," replacement coach Gene Littles moaned.

Cleveland led 92-89 with 2.8 seconds left in the first overtime Dale Ellis buried a left-angle 3-pointer. Ellis led Denver with 24 points and was 11-of-17 from the field.

"I don't know where Jalen (Rose) was on the last play," said Colter, who slipped past the taller Nugget guarding him.

"He was probably trying to block out one of the big guys. Just look at me, do I look like a guy you need to block out for a rebound? I just slipped in behind and the ball came off right where I needed it."

The underridden Cavaliers were able to win without guards Mark Price and Terrell Brandon and forward Tyrone Hill.

The Nuggets have lost four

RESULTS

Atlanta	89	Boston	84
Philadelphia	117	La Lakers	113 (OT)
Seattle	117	Dallas	91
Milwaukee	120	Detroit	100
Cleveland	101	Denver	100 (OT)
Sacramento	92	La Clippers	86
Portland			

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Pros and cons of 2002 bidders

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Israel renews NPT refusal

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Sunday his government wanted to see complete peace in the Middle East before it would sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. Beilin's comment came after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz, who repeated Egypt's plea to make the region free of nuclear arms.

The Israeli stand seemed to promise more tension with Egypt, which is refusing to renew its backing for the anti-nuclear pact being renegotiated this year unless Israel — believed to be the only nuclear power in the region — also signs the treaty (see page 2).

"Complete peace must come first, and then the next step is to sign the pact," said Mr. Beilin, who is here representing Israel in multilateral talks on the Middle East peace process.

Israel, which is believed to have about 200 warheads and has never signed the treaty, has said it fears countries like Iran and Iraq may soon develop nuclear capabilities.

Dr. Baz told a news conference after the meeting: "Egypt believes that all coun-

tries in the region including Israel should create a region free from all mass destruction weapons."

Egypt has been trying to persuade other Arab states also to refuse to sign the anti-nuclear pact, a move that has reportedly angered the Israelis.

Dr. Baz warned that Arab countries could obtain nuclear weapons themselves if Israel continued to possess a nuclear arsenal.

"Every action provokes a reaction and if Israel continues to possess the capacity to use nuclear weapons, that will make other parties work towards possessing the same capacities," Dr. Baz said after his talks with Mr. Beilin.

"We will then find ourselves in a spiralling build-up," he said.

Mr. Beilin added that Egypt would continue to work for "balanced arrangements" to rid the region of nuclear arms and to secure guarantees against the use of weapons of mass destruction.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Amr Musa repeated Egypt's statement that it would refuse to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel also does. Mr. Musa made the statement after

meeting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau.

The United States has reportedly been putting pressure on Egypt to sign the treaty, but Mr. Pelletreau refused to comment on efforts to persuade the Egyptians to go along.

Mr. Pelletreau said his meeting with Mr. Musa concentrated on the peace process and plans for a summit in March between Mr. Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Last week, the well-known Egyptian journalist Mohamed Hassanein Heikal wrote that it was unlikely Egypt and other Arab states could maintain a consensus against the treaty because of pressure from the United States.

In a lengthy statement released on Friday, Iran accused Israel of resorting to "propaganda" to "try to justify its possession of nuclear weapons by unleashing a malicious campaign against Iran and its modest peaceful nuclear programme."

Tehran was apparently angered by a report two weeks ago in the New York Times that Iran was expected to explode a nuclear weapon within five years and that it could become a major regional threat. The daily cited Israeli and U.S. sources for its report.

The NPT preparatory meeting — set for U.N. headquarters on Monday through Friday — is to set an agenda and procedures for the global conference on the treaty. That meeting is also set for New York and will run from April 17 to May 12.



SEARCH: A French rescue team looks under a collapsed building on Sunday five days after an earthquake. Delays and logistic problems have frustrated the team's first-day efforts (see page one) (AFP photo)

Nabulsi reviews Jordanian, Arab record in fiscal reform

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said Sunday Jordan and three other Arab countries which are implementing economic restructuring programmes in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had significantly improved their performances in monetary and economic terms as a result of the programme.

Dr. Nabulsi, addressing the final session of a two-day forum that brought together IMF experts, economic analysts and journalists who cover economic news, also said the Jordanian dinar was more stable than most other regional currencies, excluding those of some of the oil-producing Gulf countries.

Summing up a close scrutiny of the fiscal restructuring programmes under implementation in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, Dr. Nabulsi said the positive effects of the measures were felt in terms of controlled inflation and stability of currency while the country was also able to address its foreign debts.

The CBJ governor excluded Sudan, which is also implementing an IMF programme, from his summary, saying the peculiar features of that country did not allow for any general assessment.

Dr. Nabulsi conceded that the impact of the IMF programme on the poor is a strongly contested issue, with many complaining that the low-income group had come under additional hardships. He said there was no "real yardstick" to measure the actual negative or positive social consequences of the measures adopted under the programme — reduction of subsidies and increase in taxes.

But, as far as the Jordanian monetary authorities determined to address the country's economic problems in terms of foreign exchange reserves and currency stability, are concerned, "the IMF programme has benefited the country in monetary and fiscal terms," said the CBJ governor.

Dr. Nabulsi said after the Jordanian economy was hit by problems in 1988-89 the Kingdom had no choice but to adopt a sweeping correction programme with or without the IMF. "We could have

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Jordan, PLO discuss refugees

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials met at the Foreign Ministry here Sunday to draw up a joint position on refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Egyptian officials said. Under the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles on autonomy, a four-way committee including Israeli officials is to discuss the fate of the Palestinians displaced during the war. Most of the refugees live in Jordan. The talks were attended by Palestinian Deputy Interior Minister Ahmad Tamimi and senior Egyptian and Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials — Badr Hamam and Abdel Karim Abu Al Hajja respectively.

Hammad meets Kuwait charge d'affaires

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad on Sunday had a meeting in his office with the charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti embassy in Jordan, Faisal Muhaimeen. They discussed security matters of concern to Jordan and Kuwait.

Awn Khasawneh named state advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing Awn Shawkat Khasawneh as advisor to the state on matters related to international law with a minister's rank effective Jan. 12, 1995. Dr. Khasawneh has been working for the Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan to ban militant training camps

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, in a move to fight sectarian violence, decided on Sunday to ban training camps run by militant Muslim groups, state television said. It said the decision was taken at a meeting of cabinet ministers and officials chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The meeting also decided to ban private religious schools from receiving direct donations from foreign sources, the television said. All donations would be channelled through the government, it added. Heavily armed militant groups of the majority Sunni and minority Shi'ite sects have clashed in Pakistan. The authorities say these groups train their militants in the use of arms at secret camps. The Sunnis accuse Shi'ites of receiving help from neighbouring Iran. The Shi'ites accuse Sunnis of being helped by Saudi Arabia. Both sides deny each other's charges.

Malaysia bans Muslim magazine

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has revoked the permit of a Muslim magazine which Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohammad said reviled Muslim nations and slandered the image of Muslim leaders, the New Sunday Times reported. The paper quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying the locally published magazine, Muslim Media International, used its articles to retard the growth of Muslim nations. Neither government officials nor anyone at the magazine was immediately available for comment on the newspaper report. Mr. Mahathir said the Home Ministry had received protests from Muslim countries which were unhappy with the magazine's editorial content, the newspaper said. "It was using democratic privileges to tarnish democracy itself. If such people are allowed to operate, Muslim nations will never progress," he was quoted as telling reporters on Saturday. The English-language Muslim Media International is published bimonthly in Malaysia and circulated to local and foreign subscribers.

Pollsario to resume voter list help

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front, seeking independence in the Western Sahara, largely controlled by Morocco, said on Sunday it would shortly resume work on voter registration for a U.N.-run election on the future of the area. The front had said on Saturday it has halted the identification process in protest at Morocco allegedly banning an elderly tribal chief from travelling to refugee camps controlled by Polisario in southwest Algeria to work with the U.N. identification commission. "The identification operation, interrupted temporarily, will resume shortly," the Polisario Front said in a statement obtained by Reuters in Tunis. The statement said Polisario leader Bachir Mustapha met on Saturday United Nations Secretary-General's representative Erik Jensen who assured him that the tribesman is alive and could later move to refugee camps.

Japan's prince, princess tour Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako watched bedouin women weave mats from sheep wool and camel hair Sunday, on the second day of their visit to the emirate. Sitting in a tent in the courtyard of the national museum, they also watched the traditional festive dance of Arda, performed by sword-waving men in long flowing robes and headresses. The royal couple, who arrived in Kuwait Saturday, visited the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research that was established in 1967 by a Japanese oil company. Their busy schedule included a visit to Kuwait Towers, the three-pointed structures by the Gulf waters that have become the symbol of modern Kuwait. Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako, his wife, met with the emir's crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdali Al Sabah, who said he hoped the visit would further strengthen ties between the two countries.

Iran urges Bahrain to show restraint

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Sunday urged Bahraini authorities to exercise restraint toward Shiite Muslim dissidents, breaking an official silence since trouble erupted in the Gulf archipelago last month.

"Bahrain should exercise self-restraint toward the opposition," deputy foreign minister Mohammad Hashemi told the daily Iran News.

"Showing military muscle against Bahraini people is an outdated solution" to the crisis, said Hashemi, brother of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The violence, unprecedented in Bahrain since it won independence in 1971, was triggered by the arrest in December of Shiite cleric Sheikh Ali Salman. The sheikh was deported to the United Arab Emirates, and he later flew to London and asked for political asylum.

Bahraini opposition groups say 16 people were killed in the unrest, but the authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman. Hundreds of people have been arrested.

The opposition-in-exile is calling for the restoration of parliament and the constitution, suspended by the Sunni-led Bahraini government since 1975.

Mr. Hashemi's remarks were the first by a senior Iranian official on the violence in Bahrain, although several clergymen have already condemned the crackdown.

Mr. Hashemi stressed that Iran had "no involvement in Bahrain's domestic affairs," countering speculation that Tehran may have played a role.

Iran regarded Bahrain as one of its provinces before the country's independence and several Bahraini opposition groups are active in Tehran.

Frenchman killed in Algeria; group threatens journalists

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A Frenchman was shot dead in central Algiers Sunday, according to a reliable French source here.

Joseph Belaiche, 52, who was of Jewish origin, was driving his car when he was attacked by gunmen in Port Said Square in the centre of the city, witnesses said.

The witnesses could not say how many gunmen there were, and they could not identify them.

Belaiche was the 26th Frenchman and the 76th foreigner to die in Algeria since September 1993, when Islamists fundamentalists militants killed all foreigners to leave the country, on pain of death.

The last fundamentalist attack on Frenchmen was on Dec. 27, when three French Franciscan priests and a Belgian colleague were gunned down in their mission in Tizi Ouzou, south of Algiers in retaliation for the deaths of four fundamentalist hijackers.

The hijackers were killed by crack French troops at Marseille airport in southern France on Dec. 26 after they flew there aboard an Air France passenger jet they had taken over at Algiers airport on Dec. 24. Three hostages on the airliner had been murdered by the hijackers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Sunday's murder, but suspicion fell on the fundamentalists, who have been waging war on the military-backed secular government since January 1992, when it cancelled the second round of elections.

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"They completely destroyed the hotel," the newspaper Liberte reported. It said guerrillas attacked the Arz hotel, 90 kilometres (60

COLUMN 8

Miracle baby born amid Kobe quake havoc

KOBE, Japan (R) — Miss Ohnishi, now six days old and yet to be given a first name, must be one of the luckiest toddlers alive. Her 40-year-old mother, who declined to be identified, went into labour Tuesday at Kobe city general hospital at the very moment an earthquake rippled through the heart of the city, killing nearly 5,000 people. Japan's biggest quake in half a century also sent the doctor delivering the baby, Hideo Takashima, 63, crashing to the floor. Dr. Takashima broke his left wrist but nevertheless picked himself up and struggled on, delivering the baby at 7:30 a.m. (1030 GMT on January 16), about 90 minutes after the western port city was hit.

Miss Ohnishi, whose medical records were mislaid in the havoc that followed the quake, is fit and well but doctors are keeping her under observation until life in Kobe becomes less chaotic.

"It was incredible," said Dr. Takashima, who returned to work on Sunday. "Just as the building started to shake, so did her mother," he said.

He signed Oct. 26, 1994,

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